

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-01** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR FRANZ PIEPER AND F.C.D.
7 WYNEKEN

8 Referencing Overture 1-21
9

10 **WHEREAS**, June 27, 2027 is the 175th birthday of Franz Pieper; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, May 4, 2026 is the 150th anniversary of the death of Friedrich Conrad
13 Dietrich Wyneken; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, both these men made a tremendous impact as pastors, theologians, and
16 presidents of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS); and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Wyneken in particular helped to organize the confessional Lutherans in
19 the United States, aroused tremendous support for Lutheran mission work in America
20 through his *The Distress of the German Lutherans in North America*, did tremendous
21 mission work in all of the congregations he served, and did much to enshrine a
22 commitment to missions in the LCMS; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Pieper in particular served on the Synodical Conference's Board of Colored
25 Missions from 1882 until 1899 when he became LCMS president, wrote *Christian*
26 *Dogmatics*, served as the primary author of *A Brief Statement*, and wrote numerous
27 other important theological works; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the author of Hebrews instructs us, "Remember your leaders, those who
30 spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate
31 their faith." (13:7);
32

33 Therefore be it
34

35 **RESOLVED**, that the convention give thanks to God for the life and work of Franz
36 Pieper and F.C.D. Wyneken; and be it finally
37

38 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations and pastors of the Northern Illinois District of the
39 LCMS be encouraged to study the life and work of these men in circuit meetings,
40 pastoral conferences, lay gatherings, and their own private study.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-02B** TO STATE RELIGIOUS OBJECTION TO GOVERNMENT
7 INTERFERENCE OF PARENTS' DUTY
8 Referencing Overtures 1-01, 1-02, 1-03, 1-04
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Small Catechism confesses that God has created and gives to each
11 person “my body”; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the body of the baptized is the temple of the Holy Spirit and belongs to
14 God and God alone (1 Corinthians 6:19); and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth Commandment, as explained in the Large Catechism, places
17 all authority over a child on the parents of that child, so that we confess, “All authority
18 flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to
19 educate his child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child...So all whom we call
20 ‘masters’ are in a place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern
21 from them” (para 141-142); and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the Scriptures (and the Catechism) do not limit parental authority to a
24 particular age, but state that God has given authority to parents over all children who
25 live under their roof; and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, government in our society—at federal, state, and local levels—may in
28 various ways attempt to step between children and their parents in defiance of
29 scriptural exceptions allowing the government to do so (impeding the parents’ duty to
30 raise their children in faith and life of the Christian confession),
31

32 Therefore be it
33

34 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District boldly, unequivocally, and plainly state
35 its objection on the grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, local law, mandate,
36 and any school policy excepting those granted to such by Scripture (such as abuse or
37 neglect according to scriptural definitions), that infringes with the parents’ duty to
38 raise their children or that aids the minor child in circumventing parental authority;
39 and be it further
40

41 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District state plainly its willingness to
42 recommend resources for any parents within sister congregations of the Northern
43 Illinois District who face the challenge of government laws or school policies negating
44 parents’ duties to raise their children in the fear of the Lord; and be it further
45

46 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend parents for their work in
47 raising their children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4) so
48 that they might be found faithful though surrounded by teachings and influences
49 contrary to the Gospel; and be it further
50

51 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge her congregations and all their
52 families to benefit their children with the use of Lutheran schools, Lutheran
53 homeschools, and other opportunities for Christian education, that the parents may
54 safeguard their God-given responsibility, and that the children may be protected from
55 such government overreach and godless agendas and may be raised in the proper fear
56 of the Lord; and be it finally
57

58 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge The Lutheran Church—Missouri
59 Synod at the 2026 convention to unequivocally, and plainly state its objection on the
60 grounds of religious belief to any federal, state, local law, mandate, and any school
61 policy excepting those granted to such by Scripture (such as abuse or neglect
62 according to scriptural definitions), that infringes with the parents' duty to raise their
63 children or that aids the minor child in circumventing parental authority and to
64 provide guidelines for parents as it relates to this topic.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-03A** ADDRESSING CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM IN THE AMERICAN
7 CONTEXT

8 Referencing Overtures 1-24, 1-26
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Scripture does not endorse or prescribe one form of government over
11 another since the fall of ancient Israel; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, there is much fear and misunderstanding of what is and is not Christian
14 Nationalism due to public discourse and this causes much confusion within our
15 synod; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, pastors, other church workers, and laity have many questions on this
18 topic and seek to live out their faith in God pleasing ways especially in their vocations
19 as citizens;
20

21 Therefore be it
22

23 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District requests that The Lutheran Church—
24 Missouri Synod in the 2026 national convention to direct the Commission on Theology
25 and Church Relations (CTCR) to thoroughly study and publish a report on Christian
26 Nationalism detailing various forms, working definitions, and its relation to our
27 Lutheran understanding of the two kingdoms.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-04A** TO CHAMPION GOD’S GOOD GIFTS OF SEXUALITY AND
7 MARRIAGE

8 Referencing Overtures 1-05, 1-06
9

10 **WHEREAS**, God created us “male and female” (Gen 1:27), and Jesus Himself extols
11 the Father’s creation of these two distinct and complementary sexes “from the
12 beginning of creation” (Mt 19:4; Mk 10:6), and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, marriage – the union of one biological man and one biological woman – is
15 an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in Paradise before humanity’s fall
16 into sin (Gen 2:18-24), and sexual intimacy is intended by God solely within the union
17 of husband and wife in marriage (1 Cor 7:2; Heb 13:4), and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, marriage is a reflection of the union between Jesus Christ and His bride,
20 the Church (Eph 5:22-33), and a husband is called daily to sacrifice himself for the
21 sake of his wife and family rather than domineering over them, and a wife is called to
22 support and respect her husband rather than undermining him, and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, sexual immorality is listed first among “the works of the flesh” (Gal 5:19),
25 something that “must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints” (Eph
26 5:3) and therefore is to be “put to death” (Col 3:5), and every type of sexual immorality
27 is sinful and offensive to God (Ex 20:14; Rom 1:26-28; 1 Cor 5:11; 6:9-10; 6:18; cf.
28 Sixth Commandment), and “those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of
29 God” (Gal 5:21), and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, with the Spirit’s help we “flee from sexual immorality” (1 Cor 6:18; cf. 1
32 Thess 4:3), confess our sins, and believe Christ’s all-atoning sacrifice for sinners on
33 the cross, and our gracious God “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to
34 cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn 1:9) for Christ’s sake; and
35

36 **WHEREAS**, with the purpose of encouraging such holy living, confessional resources
37 are available from ministries including but not limited to DOXOLOGY (*In HIS Image*
38 conferences), Lutherans for Life (*Friends for Life* podcast), and Concordia Publishing
39 House (*Male & Female: Embracing Your Role in God’s Design*);
40

41 Therefore be it
42

43 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District confess clearly and
44 boldly in convention and in congregational life that all sins against God’s good gifts of
45 sexuality and marriage are destructive physically, relationally, and spiritually, and
46 deserving of God’s wrath and eternal punishment; and be it further
47

48 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of Northern Illinois District in convention
49 commend The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its Districts for providing
50 resources and educational opportunities to aid the church in best stewarding God’s

51 gifts of sexuality and marriage, to care for victims of sexual sins, and urge this to
52 continue; and be it further

53
54 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District, their pastors, and
55 other called workers who support the pastoral office clearly and boldly care for the
56 victims of sexual sins, and call all who are guilty of sexual immorality to repent of
57 such sins, to desire amendment of life, and to look in faith to Jesus Christ as the One
58 who died on the cross to save sinners; and be it further

59
60 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District and their pastors
61 clearly and boldly proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ forgives the penitent in
62 their preaching, teaching, and regularly offering private confession and absolution, to
63 fill their ears with consolation and comfort from God's holy Word, and be it finally

64
65 **RESOLVED**, that the congregations of the Northern Illinois District collaborate in
66 ministries (such as marriage retreats, youth gatherings, counseling networks,
67 conferences, sharing of resources, church worker training, etc.) intended for those who
68 commit sexual sins and those hurt by sexual sin that all might live in conformity to
69 God's will, find comfort in His healing Gospel promises, and that all of us live in our
70 holy calling as His children.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 1-05** TO AFFIRM THE NEED FOR OPEN CHURCHES DURING TIMES
7 OF PLAGUE, PESTILENCE AND PANDEMIC
8 Referencing Overtures 1-07, 1-08, 1-09, 1-10
9

10 **WHEREAS**, our Lord Jesus Christ instituted His Supper for the forgiveness of sins,
11 refreshment, comfort and strength (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-
12 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LC V 72); and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, our Lord was physically present with His disciples at His institution of His
15 Supper and personally administered the elements to them, and likewise He calls His
16 undershepherds, namely the men whom He called to the Office of the Public Ministry,
17 to administer His supper in person to His people (John 19 20:22-23; AC V; AC VII; AC
18 XXIV 30); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, we must therefore, “never think of the Sacrament as something harmful
21 from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that
22 grants salvation and comfort” (LC V 68); and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, we are commanded by God to gather to receive God’s Word and
25 Sacrament (SC Third Commandment) and “not neglect meeting together” (Hebrews
26 10:25), and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, historically the Church has thus recognized herself as essential during
29 times of plague (notable examples including the plague of Alexandria in 250 AD, where
30 the Christians who remained to tend for the sick were considered martyrs, and the
31 1527 plague at Wittenberg, where Martin Luther recommends in his letter that some
32 in the pastoral office must remain to serve the sick and dying); and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, historically, even in times of plague, pastors have brought Absolution,
35 God’s Word, and Sacrament to the sick and shut-ins when they were unable to be
36 present at church and were near death; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, during the recent Covid pandemic and due to concerns of disease spread
39 and lack of personal protection equipment, pastors and churches were forbidden to
40 visit those who were hospitalized and in long-term residential care facilities; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, we are to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1), yet where
43 the authorities contradict God’s Word, we are to obey Him rather than men (Acts
44 5:29); and
45

46 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 Convention of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
47 affirmed in-person communion (Resolution 5-08A) and encouraged in-person worship
48 (Resolution 4-06) and directed the Commission on Theology and Church Relations
49 (CTCR) to “produce a study of the Third Commandment that addresses...its
50 application to Christian worship today”;

51
52 Therefore be it
53

54 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge that where a man ordained to the
55 Office of the Public Ministry is present and available, congregations should continue
56 the in-person administration of the Lord's Supper, even during times of plague; and be
57 it further

58
59 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District urge congregations, using God's gifts of
60 science and reason, to take steps to lessen fear and risk, while not interfering with the
61 administration of the Lord's Supper as He instituted it; and be it further

62
63 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District affirm that the bringing of Word and
64 Sacrament to the sick and shut-in is essential to his/her well-being, and the pastor,
65 as a physician of souls, should have the same visiting rights and responsibilities as for
66 the health care worker; and be it further

67
68 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District affirm that, in Christian freedom
69 (Galatians 5:1) and based on local realities, some congregations may choose to
70 temporarily and briefly suspend public gatherings during times of plague, but that the
71 deliverance of Word and Sacrament must continue; and be it further

72
73 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District affirm that, while respecting God's
74 vocational calls to local political leaders and public health authorities, she strongly
75 opposes the forced closings of congregations in times of plague, as well as the banning
76 of contact with those hospitalized or in long-term care facilities, as a contradiction of
77 God's Word and thus outside the Divinely-ordained bounds of their offices in His
78 Kingdom of the Left; and be it finally

79
80 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend the Lutheran Center for
81 Religious Liberty for their advocacy on this and other such concerns, as well as the
82 2023 LCMS Convention for Resolutions 5-08A and 4-06, and the CTCR for their
83 continued work on their study of the Third Commandment.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-01 TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO SEEK WELLNESS FOR**
7 **THEIR CHURCH WORKERS**

8 Referencing Overtures 2-07, 2-09, 2-14
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has created humanity in His image (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis
11 9:6) and has created us anew in Christ Jesus (II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:29); and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord promises to supply us with all we need to support this body and
14 life (Luther's Large and Small Catechisms, The Creed, Explanation to the First Article;
15 The Lord's Prayer, Explanation to the Fourth Petition); and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District in convention has affirmed "Wellness" as one
18 of its three mission priorities and has actively pursued this emphasis through the
19 service of its Wellness Committee and Church Worker Care Team; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, Surveys within our synod have revealed a significant percentage of church
22 professionals greatly suffer in identified areas of wellness as they serve in ministry
23 (*The Reporter*, January 2017 edition); and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in its 2016 convention resolved to
26 address church worker wellness matters through our district presidents, circuit
27 visitors, and congregations (Res. 18- 05); and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Sabbaticals can be a vital tool for addressing burnout, allowing church
30 workers time for rest, renewal, and reconnection with their calling, which benefits
31 both the worker and their congregation in the long term; and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has developed resources to provide
34 care for both ordained and commissioned church workers in nine identified critical
35 areas of wellness: Identity in Christ; Supportive and Encouraging Culture; Healthy
36 Church, Schools, and Ministries; Finances; Relationships; Caregivers; Recognition and
37 Connection; Awareness, Resources and Advocacy; and Care Provided Locally;
38

39 Therefore be it
40

41 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention commend congregations
42 to actively seek the wellness of their church workers, reflecting the value they have for
43 them and to celebrate them as gifts from our Lord; and be it further
44

45 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District in convention encourages congregations to
46 annually review the salary and benefits they provide to their church workers with the
47 goal of making their workers aware of those benefits, especially those congregations
48 and ministries who provide benefits through Concordia Plan Services; and be it further
49

50 **RESOLVED**, The congregations of our district be encouraged to research and make
51 use of ministries that support the care of church workers such as Grace Place,
52 Doxology, Shepherd's Canyon, *etc.*; and be it further

53
54 **RESOLVED**, The congregations of our district be encouraged to explore the use of
55 sabbaticals for their professional church workers and resources that will support them
56 in this endeavor and be it finally

57
58 **RESOLVED**, That we ask our congregations, schools, and ministries to regularly pray
59 for their church workers and that the Lord would provide more workers for the harvest
60 (Matthew 9).

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-02A** TO ALIGN THE TERM LIMITS OF DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND
7 VICE PRESIDENTS
8 Referencing Overtures 2-01, 2-02, 2-03, 2-04
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the 2021 Convention of the Northern Illinois District increased the term
11 limit for the District President to four (4) terms, and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the term limit for district Vice Presidents is currently set at three (3)
14 terms, and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, District Vice Presidents are experienced and qualified men who may
17 eventually replace an outgoing District President, and a term of service in this
18 leadership role equal to that of the District President might prove beneficial;
19

20 Therefore be it
21

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District extend the term limit for district Vice
23 Presidents to four (4) terms.
24

25 and be it finally
26

27 **RESOLVED**, that NID bylaw V.D be amended to read: ***For the offices of President***
28 ***and Vice President, no individual may hold the same position for more than***
29 ***four consecutive terms of three years each. For all other elective offices, no***
30 individual may hold the same elective office for more than three consecutive terms of
31 three years each. Vacancy service for a period of more than one-half of a term shall be
32 counted as a full term for purposes of term limitations.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-03** TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS TO COMPLETE ANNUAL
7 REPORTS AND REVIEW GOVERNING DOCUMENTS
8 Referencing Overtures 2-05, 2-06
9

10 **WHEREAS**, God in His Word encourages and admonishes Christians to maintain good
11 order among His people [1 Corinthians 14:40, Hebrews 13:17]; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Lutheran Confessions encourage good order amongst our humanly
14 agreed upon roles [Ap. XIV]; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)
17 “agree to provide annual membership and statistical information to the Synod” [LCMS
18 Bylaw 1.3.4.3]; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Illinois District (NID) has one of the lowest rates of annual
21 statistical reporting; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, a condition of membership in the LCMS is to have the congregation’s
24 constitution and bylaws approved by the district board of directors (BOD) [LCMS
25 Bylaw 2.2.1], and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, over the last triennium it has been found that some congregations do not
28 have an approved constitution and bylaws and others have made changes without
29 BOD approval;
30

31 Therefore be it
32

33 **RESOLVED**, that the pastors and congregations of the Northern Illinois District be
34 directed to annually submit accurate reports to the LCMS Office of Rosters and
35 Statistics through the LCMS Information Support Network for Congregations (LISN)
36 portal; and be it further
37

38 **RESOLVED**, that over the next triennium every congregation of the NID contact the
39 district secretary to verify the latest approved version of their constitution and bylaws
40 and if found in need of updating, follow LCMS Bylaw 2.4.1 in the amendment process;
41 and be it finally
42

43 **RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention commend those congregations who annually
44 submit their statistical report and those congregations who have intentionally and
45 regularly reviewed their governing documents.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-04A** TO RECOGNIZE THE MARRIAGE AND HONOR THE SPOUSE
7 OF CHURCH WORKERS
8 Referencing Overture 2-17
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The year 2025 will mark the 500th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther's
11 marriage to Katherine von Bora on June 13, 1525; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Luther's marriage helped to reestablish within the Reformation movement
14 the blessing of marriage among the Christian clergy in the West; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) resolved at its 2023
17 Convention,
18

19 "That the LCMS encourages its districts holding pastoral conferences and/or
20 conventions in 2025 to help celebrate the anniversary milestone by recognizing the
21 wedding anniversaries of their pastors and their wives in whatever manner or custom
22 might be deemed best; and be it further
23

24 "Resolved, That district presidents and the congregations under their care be urged to
25 give careful attention and commitment to their congregation's moral obligation not
26 only to love their pastor, his wife, and family, but also to provide the salary, housing,
27 and benefits needed by the pastor to care for his wife and household";
28

29 Therefore be it
30

31 **RESOLVED**, That the president, vice-presidents, and circuit visitors of the Northern
32 Illinois District make known to all congregations of the NID the 2023 synodical
33 resolution quoted above; and be it finally
34

35 **RESOLVED**, That the president and his staff, vice-presidents, and circuit visitors of
36 the Northern Illinois District additionally encourage NID congregations to recognize the
37 marriage and honor all spouses of church workers in a special way in the Year of Our
38 Lord, 2025.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-05A** TO CLARIFY THE PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS FOR
7 THEOLOGICAL FACULTIES, CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS, AND THE
8 SELECTION PROCESS FOR SEMINARY PRESIDENTS
9 Referencing Overture 2-19

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Appointments to theological faculties at all Synodical universities and
12 seminaries are subject to the prior approval process (LCMS Handbook 2023 bylaws
13 3.10.5.7.3 and 3.10.6.9.2); and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, All appointments of the president of each Concordia University are subject
16 to the prior approval process (LCMS Handbook 2023 bylaw 3.10.6.8.2); and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, All seminary presidential appointments are subject to a selection process
19 (LCMS Handbook 2023 bylaw 3.10.5.6.2); and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The aforementioned bylaws delegate the responsibility for prior approval
22 to specific groups, and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, The bylaws related to theological faculty (3.10.5.7.3 and 3.10.6.9.2)
25 include the phrase “and shall include a thorough theological review”, and
26

27 **WHEREAS**, The lack of a comprehensive definition of the scope of the prior approval
28 process beyond a “thorough theological review” has led to questions among members
29 of the synod; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, Trust among brothers and sisters could increase through a more well
32 understood process, relieving any undue criticism of the process and those who carry
33 it out on our behalf;
34

35 Therefore be it
36

37 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District 2025 Convention memorialize the 2026
38 Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to request the leadership of The
39 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to publish articles in both *The Lutheran Witness*
40 and *The Reporter* to clarify what the prior approval process is and how it is being
41 carried out.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 2-07** TO ENCOURAGE THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE
7 CHURCH THROUGH THE VISITATION OF ECCLESIASTICAL SUPERVISORS
8 Referencing Overtures 2-16, 2-18, 2-20
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has given His Church to extend the Gospel witness into all the
11 world (Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-10) and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, The carrying forth of the Lord’s work in mission and ministry for the local
14 parish encompasses numerous areas of Christian life including Bible study,
15 discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, Christian education, care for human need,
16 etc.,
17

18 **WHEREAS**, The constitution of our synod addresses a number of these areas of
19 Christian life in Article III – Objectives in defining the purpose of the Synod, and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod state that “The district president shall, in
22 accordance with the Constitution of the Synod, in his ministry of ecclesiastical
23 supervision visit the congregations of this district,” (Bylaw 4.4.4) and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that said ecclesiastical
26 supervisory visits (done by the district president or the circuit visitors or vice
27 presidents as he sees fit) are to be conducted in this manner, “He shall come to the
28 pastor and congregation as a brotherly advisor, reminding them of the joy of serving in
29 the mission and ministry of the church,” (Bylaw 4.4.4d) and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, The Bylaws of the Synod further stipulate that at these visits the district
32 president or his official representative “shall include fraternal discussion in regard to
33 worship and communion attendance; participation by the congregation in missions
34 and work of the church at large; the congregation’s evangelism and education
35 endeavors; its cultivation of sound stewardship principles; all aspects of compensation
36 for professional church workers; the need for maintenance of purity of doctrine, the
37 strengthening of the bond of Christian fellowship; and the provision of resources,
38 opportunities, and assistance so God’s people can grow in their faith, hope, and love”
39 (Bylaw 4.4.4e),
40

41 Therefore be it
42

43 **RESOLVED**, that the Northern Illinois District commend its district president in the
44 carrying out of such ecclesial visits to all of our congregations and their pastors, and
45 be it further
46

47 **RESOLVED**, that in these visits, the district president, or his official representative,
48 fraternally discuss theological commitment to LCMS teachings with the goal of
49 bringing about more harmony and unity between our churches, and be it further
50

51 **RESOLVED**, that the health and wellness of the ministry and its workers is also
52 discussed, and be it further

53
54 **RESOLVED**, these visits also include a discussion regarding future ministry direction
55 and possible partnerships with other congregations and Recognized Service
56 Organizations and be it further

57
58 **RESOLVED**, that we encourage our pastors and congregations to readily and joyfully
59 receive these ecclesial visits as they are intended for the building up of God's holy
60 people for the carrying out of His mission and ministry, and be it finally

61
62 **RESOLVED**, that the district president, or his representative, shall include progress of
63 these reports annually in official district communication and also in his report to the
64 2028 district convention.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION; 3-01** TO REAFFIRM “WORD, WELLNESS, WITNESS” AS THE
7 NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT’S MINISTRY FOCUS
8 Referencing Overture 3-04
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has given us His inspired Word to make us wise for salvation
11 through faith in Christ Jesus and to equip us for every good work [II Timothy 3:14-17];
12 and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has blessed us in wellness, giving us our very lives and richly
15 and daily providing us with all we need to support this body and life. [Luther’s Small
16 Catechism, The Creed, The First Article Explanation], and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has called us to witness the gift of His grace to the World,
19 proclaiming the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous
20 light. [I Peter 2:9]; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District in its 60th Convention resolved that “Word,
23 Wellness, Witness” would be our ministry focus for our work together; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, “Word, Wellness, Witness” has served us well, helping to clarify ministry
26 priorities and setting direction for our common efforts as a district in service to our
27 Lord and His people;
28

29 Therefore be it,
30

31 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District reaffirm the focus of “Word, Wellness,
32 Witness,” for its work together; and be it further
33

34 **RESOLVED**, That this focus be commended to the congregations, schools and
35 ministries of the Northern Illinois District for its use, shaping their local ministry
36 priorities; and be it finally
37

38 **RESOLVED**, That we continue to lift up our prayers to our Lord and Savior, asking
39 Him to bless our service together under “Word, Wellness, Witness” to the glory of God
40 the honor of His name and salvation of all.
41
42
43

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-02A** TO ENCOURAGE CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS OF THE
7 NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT TO WORK TOGETHER IN MISSION AND MINISTRY
8 PARTNERSHIPS

9 Referencing Overture 3-02

10
11 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord compares His Church to a human body in which the various
12 parts of that body depend on one another and work together to fulfill His purposes for
13 it (I Corinthians 12:12-27); and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Our Lord has equipped His Church with various gifts by the work of the
16 Holy Spirit for the benefit of the entire body (Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11,
17 28-31; Ephesians 4:12-16); and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, Our confessions remind us that our Lord has called us to a church that,
20 while gathered around His Word and Sacraments locally, extends beyond the local
21 congregation (Augsburg Confession Article VII; Luther's Large and Small Catechisms
22 explanation to the Apostles' Creed Article III); and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Today, the churches, schools, and ministries of the Northern Illinois
25 District face tremendous and numerous challenges, both internally and externally, as
26 we seek to carry out our Lord's mission in this place; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, The Northern Illinois District, in response to these challenges, has been
29 conducting Partnership Gatherings in our circuits during the past two trienniums to
30 encourage congregations and ministries to build relationships with each other that we
31 might assist one another in the carrying out of the work our Lord has given us to do
32 together in Christian love, unity and strength; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has produced resources to
35 encourage and assist congregations to develop partnerships in ministry with one
36 another;
37

38 Therefore be it,
39

40 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District in convention commend congregations,
41 schools, and ministries to the task of purposefully building healthy relationships with
42 each other in Christian love; and be it further
43

44 **RESOLVED**, The Northern Illinois District encourage congregations, schools and
45 ministries to explore various ways that they might partner together to build one
46 another up in love and service, to lighten present burdens and carry out the mission of
47 Jesus among us; and be it finally
48

49 **RESOLVED**, That we entreat our congregations to continually lift up neighboring
50 LCMS ministries by name in our Prayers of the Church and to speak well of sister

51 congregations, schools and ministries to the glory of God, the honor of His name and
52 the salvation of all.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-03A** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND ENCOURAGE LUTHERAN
7 SCHOOLS TO CONTINUE WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
8 Referencing Overture 3-03
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Triune God commands that children be taught His Word by their
11 parents and by the Church (Deut, 4:9-10; 6:5-9; Psalm 78; Matt. 19:13-15; 28:16-20;
12 Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 4:10-11); and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, Congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) have
15 established early childhood centers, day schools, high schools, and Concordia
16 University System [CUS] to teach the Word of God, and to assist fathers and mothers
17 in their calling to instruct their children in the same Word and all godly knowledge;
18 and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, 2023 synodical resolution 12-04A commended and gave thanks for
21 Lutheran schools; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran schools provide a tremendous blessing to their students and
24 broader communities; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Lutheran parents who homeschool their children also provide a
27 tremendous blessing to their children and those influenced by them; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, Many faithful LCMS members teach children in public schools and
30 provide a tremendous blessings and faithful witness in an environment increasingly
31 hostile to Christianity and biblical teachings;
32

33 Therefore be it,
34

35 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention commend all educators and leaders in our
36 NID schools and congregations, giving thanks to God for their faithful service; and be
37 it further
38

39 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention commend all congregation members who
40 serve in public or non-Lutheran private schools, encourage them to continue being a
41 light shining in the darkness of an increasingly hostile world, and give thanks to God
42 for their faithful service; and be it further
43

44 **RESOLVED**, That all congregations of the district congregations be encouraged in
45 their continued operation and support of our Lutheran schools; and be it further
46

47 **RESOLVED**, That all parents who are members of district congregations be
48 encouraged, where available, to enroll their children in our Lutheran schools; and be it
49 further
50

51 **RESOLVED** That young adults be encouraged to continue their education at a CUS
52 Institution, and be it further

53

54 **RESOLVED**, That the pastors and congregations of our district view their schools as
55 the front line of the mission field; and be it further

56

57 **RESOLVED**, That the district in convention give thanks to God for the growth of
58 Lutheran schools, including classical Lutheran schools, micro-schools, homeschools,
59 and all other emerging school models that provide instruction in Lutheran doctrine
60 and godly knowledge; and be it finally

61

62 **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of the district be encouraged regularly to pray for
63 all schools, their teachers, administrators, staff, and boards, and the welfare of the
64 youth entrusted to their care.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-04A** TO OFFER THANKS TO GOD FOR CONGREGATIONS AND
7 INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTING MINISTRY THROUGH FINANCIAL OFFERINGS
8 Referencing Overture 3-01
9

10 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote to the Church in
11 Ephesus of God the Father, the reign of Christ and His great commitment and on-
12 going concern for His Church, “He put all things under his feet and gave him as head
13 over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”
14 (Ephesians 1:22,23 ESV); and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The Apostle Paul, encourages the challenged and sometimes divided
17 Church in Corinth to “strive to excel in the building up of the church, (I Corinthians
18 14:12 ESV); and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s own Constitution in the Reason
21 for Forming of a Synodical Union, states, “Our Lord’s will that the diversity of gifts
22 should be for the common profit. I Cor. 12:4-31”; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, Article III states the Objectives of the Synod, under Scriptures and the
25 Lutheran Confessions, include, to conserve and promote the unity of the true faith,
26 strengthen and aid congregations, schools and members in giving bold witness in word
27 and deed, recruit and train Pastors, teachers and other professional church workers
28 and assist in their continuing growth, promote harmony in our common confession
29 of faith, provide ecclesiastical supervision, counsel and care for workers and provide
30 for the welfare of workers; and
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Many congregations and individual offer regular prayers and financial
33 support for the work of the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church—
34 Missouri Synod;
35

36 Therefore be it,
37

38 **RESOLVED**, That the Northern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri
39 Synod in Convention offer thanks and praise to the Triune God for congregations and
40 individuals who are able and “compelled by the Gospel of Christ” (II Corinthians 5:14),
41 even in challenging times, to support the work of Christ through the Northern Illinois
42 District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with financial offerings rejoicing
43 that God’s redeemed people are, “Stronger Together: Co-Workers for the Kingdom of
44 God;” and be it further
45

46 **RESOLVED**, That The Northern Illinois District in convention express thanks to
47 congregations and individuals for financial offerings given to support the “Common
48 Profit” among us in the Northern Illinois District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri
49 Synod to the Glory of God, the honor of His Name and that we are always striving

50 “vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches,
51 communities and the world” (LCMS Mission Statement).

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-05A** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR 150 YEARS OF BLACK
7 MINISTRY
8 Referencing Overture 3-05
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Christ our Lord commissioned His church to make disciples of all nations.
11 Matthew 28:19-20.
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Revelation 5:9, 13:7, and 14:6 speak of salvation freely offered and the
14 proclamation of the Gospel “to every nation and tribe and language and people”; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, many other passages of Holy Scripture testify to God’s love for all people
17 and our obligation to likewise love our neighbors regardless of ethnic, geographic, or
18 social background; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, 2027 marks the 150th anniversary of Black Ministry within The Lutheran
21 Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with its establishment at Emmanuel Lutheran
22 Church, Ft. Wayne, IN at the 1877 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical
23 Conference of North America; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the history of Black Ministry within the LCMS as the Rev. Dr. Richard C.
26 Dickinson aptly put it is one of both “roses and thorns”; and
27

28 Therefore be it,
29

30 **RESOLVED**, that the NID celebrate the missionaries, teachers, churches, and schools
31 involved in this work; and be it further
32

33 **RESOLVED**, that the NID lament failure to meet the scriptural standards of love for one
34 another; and be it further
35

36 **RESOLVED**, that we commend the 2023 NID report on Crossing Thresholds: to Others
37 mandated by the 2022 NID convention (Resolution 3-03A) and To Affirm the Common
38 Humanity of All People and Ethnicities (Resolution 11-04A), adopted by the Synod in
39 convention in 2019, and be it further
40

41 **RESOLVED**, that the NID reaffirms the scriptural condemnation of racism in all its
42 forms; and be it further
43

44 **RESOLVED**, that the NID encourage the study of the history of Black Ministry in the
45 LCMS through books such as Roses and Thorns: The Centennial Edition of Black
46 Lutheran Missions and Ministry in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Light in
47 the Dark Belt: The Story of Rosa Young as Told by Herself, films such as The First
48 Rosa, and other sources; and be it further
49

50 **RESOLVED**, that able scholars within the LCMS be encouraged to provide an updated
51 history of Black Ministry within the LCMS; and be it further

52

53 **RESOLVED**, that pastors, commissioned ministers, and lay people involved in this
54 work be encouraged to record their reflections and personal accounts for the sake of
55 preserving our knowledge of this important work; and be it further

56

57 **RESOLVED**, that the district in convention memorialize the Synod to adopt this
58 resolution generally as is, at its 2026 convention and that resources be provided to
59 celebrate the 150th anniversary of Black Ministry in the LCMS in 2027.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-06A** TO GIVE THANKS FOR 90 YEARS OF LWML IN NID
7 Referencing Overture 3-07
8

9 **WHEREAS**, at the 1937 of the Northern Illinois District (NID) of The Lutheran
10 Church—Missouri Synod, the district in convention approved the establishment of the
11 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) in the district; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the NID LWML has been a tremendous blessing to the church through
14 their prayerful and material support of mission work; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, individual LWML societies provide tremendous other service within their
17 congregations and communities; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the faithful service of women in the church according to their vocations is
20 a tremendous blessing from God and example to younger women (cf. Titus 2:3-5);
21

22 Therefore be it,
23

24 **RESOLVED**, that the NID in convention commend the district LWML for their faithful
25 service; and be it finally
26

27 **RESOLVED**, that the district encourage all women to faithfully serve the church
28 according to their vocations and abilities.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025
5

6 **RESOLUTION: 3-07A** TO ENCOURAGE PASTORS TO HONOR THEIR OWN CALL
7 Referencing Overture 3-08
8

9 **WHEREAS**, The first objective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is
10 to "Conserve and promote the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10) ... "
11 (Constitution Article III 1), and also to "Provide protection for congregations, pastors,
12 teachers, and other church workers in the performance of their official duties and the
13 maintenance of their rights" (Constitution Article III 9); and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, As a condition of acquiring and holding membership in the Synod, as
16 stated in Const. Art. VI 3 of the Constitution of the Synod, every congregation and
17 minister must agree to observe and respect the individual congregation's right to
18 call a pastor and not interfere with that pastor's proper authority in matters
19 pertaining to his call, and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, C.F.W. Walther's *Kirche und Amt*, adopted by the LCMS in Convention as
22 official doctrine (2001 Synod Convention To Affirm Synod's Official Position on Church
23 and Ministry RESOLUTION 7-17A), further defends the aforementioned rights and is
24 explicitly clear that pastors are not to meddle in congregations to which they have
25 no call or responsibility for ecclesiastical oversight according to the good order of
26 the church;
27

28 Therefore be it,
29

30 **RESOLVED**, That the NID memorialize the Synod in its 2026 convention to reaffirm
31 these beliefs, and be it finally
32

33 **RESOLVED**, That ecclesiastical supervisors fraternally, yet strongly, rebuke any
34 pastors (retired, called elsewhere, etc.) interfering with the internal affairs of a
35 congregation to which they are not properly called to preserve the unity of the church's
36 witness.

1 To the 61st Convention of
2 The Northern Illinois District
3 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
4 March 7-8, 2025

5
6 RESOLUTION: 3-08
7

8 **Subject:** TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR 60 YEARS OF MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS
9 WITH WALCAMP OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

10
11 **WHEREAS,** Walcamp Outdoor Ministries supplements and collaborates ministries
12 between churches, schools, and other ministries of the Northern Illinois District, and
13

14 **WHEREAS,** for over 60 years, Walcamp has amplified the ministry reach of Northern
15 Illinois District congregations, and
16

17 **WHEREAS,** Walcamp serves as a formative training ground for countless church
18 workers and lay leaders, and
19

20 **WHEREAS,** Walcamp continues to demonstrate Christ's love through dedicated
21 service to those with developmental disabilities, and
22

23 **WHEREAS,** Walcamp effectively shares the Gospel with unchurched youth and
24 families through innovative programming, and
25

26 **WHEREAS,** Walcamp has stewarded God's gifts effectively to overcome considerable
27 inherited financial liabilities,
28

29 Therefore be it,
30

31 **RESOLVED,** That the Northern Illinois District give praise to God for the faithful
32 witness of Walcamp, and be it finally
33

34 **RESOLVED,** that the churches, schools, other ministries of the Northern Illinois
35 District be encouraged to work together in closer relationships with Walcamp.